



July 8, 2016

Conference Report on S. 524, Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act

Key Points:

- **Today, the House will consider the Conference Report on S. 524, Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. This authorization measure includes several useful bipartisan authorization provisions that are steps forward in addressing the opioid epidemic. However, unfortunately, the conference report fails to include any immediate, new resources to address this unprecedented crisis.**
- **While we are supportive of the bipartisan authorization provisions in the Conference Report, Democrats had wanted to significantly improve this conference report by adding immediate, new resources to fight the epidemic.**
- Therefore, at the meeting of the conference committee on July 6, Rep. Frank Pallone, Ranking Democrat on the Energy and Commerce Committee and Sen. Patty Murray, Ranking Democrat on the HELP Committee, each offered an amendment containing a Democratic proposal providing \$920 million in new resources to address the epidemic, fully paid for with vetted, bipartisan offsets.
- Unfortunately, both the Pallone amendment and the Murray amendment were defeated. As a result, neither the House Democratic conferees nor the Senate Democratic conferees signed the conference report.
- **The Democratic funding proposal provided \$920 million in immediate funding over two years to provide critical tools to attack the opioid epidemic head on. This funding would have gone directly to the states to enable them to increase treatment capacity, through cooperative agreements to expand access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders.**
- This Democratic proposal provided for a targeted response where funding would have been allocated to the areas hit the hardest by this epidemic. It would have empowered states to adopt innovative solutions to increase treatment capacity as well as to make treatment more affordable for those seeking services.
- **Democrats are very disappointed that this Democratic proposal to provide needed immediate new resources to fight the opioid epidemic is not in this legislation before the House today.**
- The conference report, however, does include many worthwhile authorization provisions that Democrats and Republicans worked together on developing. These authorization provisions will provide some useful policy changes that will improve our efforts in tackling the opioid addiction crisis across the country.
- See the attached fact sheet, prepared by the Majority staff of the Energy and Commerce Committee, for a summary of the provisions of the conference report.